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**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A pothole protection mechanism ~~prevents an aerial work platform from tipping when driven into a pothole or off a curb or the like~~ provides additional support for the vehicle in the event a wheel is driven into a hole while the platform is elevated. The mechanism includes an extendible and retractable pothole protection bar. A five-bar mechanism serves to actuate the pothole protection bar based on a position of the vehicle lifting section. The construction of the mechanism serves to prevent a crushing hazard while deploying the bar and tolerates fixed objects on the ground while raising the bar.